

HOUSE RESOLUTION 17

By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to applaud and honor the students, teachers, and administrators of Whitwell Middle School for their tireless work on the Holocaust Project.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding middle schools that, through the dedicated efforts of their students, teachers, and administrators, bring honor to the State of Tennessee while providing a unique educational experience; and

WHEREAS, Whitwell Middle School is one such estimable institution that has distinguished itself through excellent teaching, quality education, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, originally devised to promote diversity and cultural acceptance among the students, the Holocaust Project set out in 1998 to collect 6 million paper clips, one for every victim of Hitler's "Final Solution"; and

WHEREAS, paper clips were selected because during World War II, Norwegians wore paper clips on their clothes to voice their opposition to Nazism and anti-Semitism; and

WHEREAS, after receiving donations from students, teachers, individuals, and organizations from all over the world, Whitwell Middle School is well on its way to collecting an astounding 30 million paper clips; and

WHEREAS, the unfolding drama of Whitwell Middle School's Holocaust Project has been captured in the documentary film called *Paper Clips* and in the Peter and Dagmar Schroeder book *Six Million Paper Clips*; and

WHEREAS, *Paper Clips* has gained far-ranging acclaim by winning the Best Film, Audience Favorite, Best Director, and Best Film Score awards at the Rome, Georgia

International Film Festival; Audience Favorite award at the Palm Springs Film Festival; and the Audience Favorite award and Jury Award for Best Documentary at the Jackson Hole Film Festival; and

WHEREAS, after the Holocaust Project is complete, Whitwell Middle School, with the assistance of a local artist, will build a memorial sculpture to honor and permanently commemorate those whose lives were so unconscionably taken during the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, the Whitwell students' commitment to remembering the victims of this genocide and honoring those who fought against the tyranny behind it epitomizes the spirit that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, we wish to seize this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding middle schools; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend the students, teachers, and administrators of Whitwell Middle School for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, especially in their tireless work on the Holocaust Project, and salute their unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.